

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-26 are presently active; claims 1, 8, 15, 22, and 25 having been amended by way of the present response.

In the outstanding Office Action, claim 1, 3-8, 10-15, and 17-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Furukawa et al. Claims 2, 9, 16, 25, and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Furukawa et al.

As discussed above, independent claims 1, 8, 15, 22, and 25 have been amended to recite different features of the invention. Support for these amendments can be found, *inter alia*, on page 13, lines 4 to 13, and from page 14, line 19 to page 15, line 5.

The present invention is directed to a disc drive. A base portion of the disc drive includes a disc rotation driving means, a recording and/or reading means (e.g., an optical pickup), and a feeding mechanism. The rotation driving means rotates a disc shaped recording medium that is loaded into the base of the drive. The feeding mechanism moves (e.g., translates) the recording and/or reading means relative to the disc. The base also includes portions for receiving a plurality of supporting means symmetrically distributed about a center line of the base. The balance of the base is maintained along the direction of movement of the recording means during operation of the disc drive (e.g., through positioning of the driving means, recording/reading means, and/or feeding mechanism such that a center of gravity of the base is disposed along the centerline). Examples of advantages of the disc drive are discussed in the specification.

Furukawa et al. shows a disc drive including a disc clasper. As shown, *inter alia*, in

figures 1-3, 7, and 21 of Furukawa et al., disc drive 1 includes main body 2 and disc tray 5.¹ Mechanism unit 42 is disposed in main body 2 and includes support plate 44 with turn-table 46 and optical pick-up 47.² Elastic members 441 hold support plate 44 in base frame 43 and prevent vibrations caused by turn-table 46 from being transmitted to mechanism unit 42.³ However, Furukawa et al. does not show or suggest maintaining a balance of a base along a direction of movement of the recording means during operation of a disc drive (e.g., through positioning of the driving means, recording/reading means, and/or feeding mechanism such that a center of gravity of the base is disposed along the centerline). Rather, Furukawa et al. does not state the relative locations of components disposed on a base. Thus, in contrast to Furukawa et al., independent claim 1 of the present invention recites that "the disc rotation driving means, the recording and/or reading means, and the feeding mechanism are located on the base such that a center of gravity of the base lies along the center line." Independent claims 8, 15, and 25 each recite that "the disc rotation driving means, the optical pickup, and the feeding mechanism are located on the base such that a center of gravity of the base lies along the center line." Further, independent claim 22 recites that "weight shifts or imbalances caused by optical pickup movement are eliminated such that balance of the base is maintained along the direction of movement during operation of the optical disc drive." Thus, for at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully assert that Furukawa et al. does not show or suggest these features of the independent claims.

Claims 2-7, 9-14, 16-21, 23, 24, and 26 depend from independent claims 1, 8, 15, 22, and 25, and are therefore also allowable for at least the same reasons as the independent

¹Column 4, lines 1 to 7.

²Column 5, lines 31 to 40.

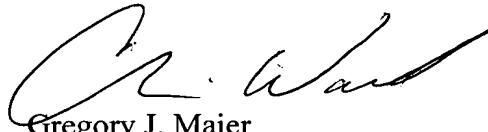
³Column 5, lines 41 to 64.

claims.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussion, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. J. Maier", written over the printed name.

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IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A disc drive for driving a disc shaped recording medium, comprising:

a base;

disc rotation driving means disposed on the base for rotating a disc shaped recording medium loaded in the base;

recording and/or reading means disposed on the base for recording data on and/or reading data from the [disk] disc shaped recording medium;

guide means disposed on the base for movably supporting the recording and/or reading means between inner and outer circumferences of the disc shaped recording medium, while the disc shaped recording medium is rotated;

a feeding mechanism disposed on the base for feeding the recording and/or reading means along the guide means; and

a plurality of receiving portions for receiving support for the base, the receiving portions being disposed symmetrically on the base with respect to a center line of the base along the direction of the movement of the recording and/or reading means,

wherein the disc rotation driving means, the recording and/or reading means, and the feeding mechanism are located on the base such that a center of gravity of the base lies along the center line.

8. (Amended) An optical disc drive for recording data on and/or reproducing data from an optical disc, comprising:

a base;

disc rotation driving means disposed on the base for rotating an optical disc loaded in the base;

an optical pickup disposed on the base for recording data on and/or reproducing data from the optical disk;

guide means disposed on the base for movably supporting the optical pickup between inner and outer circumferences of the optical disc, while the optical disc is rotated;

a feeding mechanism disposed on the base for feeding the optical pickup along the guide means;

a plurality of supporting means each with an associated elastic member for elastically supporting the base, the supporting means and the associated elastic members being disposed symmetrically on the base with respect to a center line of the base along the direction of the movement of the optical pickup;

a plurality of receiving portions disposed on the base for receiving the supporting means,

wherein the disc rotation driving means, the optical pickup, and the feeding mechanism are located on the base such that a center of gravity of the base lies along the center line.

15. (Amended) An optical disc drive for recording data on and/or reproducing data from an optical disc, comprising:

a support pedestal;

a base supported by the support pedestal;

disc rotation driving means disposed on the base for rotating an optical disc loaded in the base;

a disc tray movably disposed on the support pedestal between a first position where the optical disc is removable and a second position where the optical disc is at the disc rotation driving means;

an optical pickup disposed on the base for recording data on and/or reproducing data from the optical disc;

guide means disposed on the base for movably supporting the optical pickup between inner and outer circumferences of the optical disc, while the optical disc is rotated;

a feeding mechanism disposed on the base for feeding the optical pickup along the guide means; and

a base support member for supporting the base with a plurality of supporting means disposed symmetrically with respect to a center line of the base along the direction of the movement of the optical pickup, each of the supporting means including an elastic member,

wherein the disc rotation driving means, the optical pickup, and the feeding mechanism are located on the base such that a center of gravity of the base lies along the center line.

22. (Amended) An optical disc drive for accurately recording data on and/or reproducing data from an optical disc, comprising:

a base;

disc rotation driving means disposed on the base for rotating an optical disc loaded in the base;

an optical pickup disposed on the base for recording data on and/or reproducing data from the optical disc;

guide means disposed on the base for movably supporting the optical pickup between inner and outer circumferences of the optical disc, while the optical disc is rotated;

a feeding mechanism disposed on the base for feeding the optical pickup along the guide means;

a plurality of supporting means disposed on the base with an associated elastic member for elastically supporting the base, the supporting means and the associated elastic members being disposed symmetrically on the base with respect to a center line of the base along the direction of the movement of the optical pickup;

whereby weight shifts or [imbalance] imbalances caused by optical pickup movement are eliminated such that the [and horizontal] balance of the base is maintained along the direction of movement during operation of the optical disc drive.

25. (Amended) An optical disc drive for recording data on and/or reproducing data from an optical disc, comprising:

a base;

disc rotation driving means disposed on the base for rotating an optical disc loaded in the base;

an optical pickup disposed on the base for recording data on and/or reproducing data from the optical disc;

guide means disposed on the base for movably supporting the optical pickup between inner and outer circumferences of the optical disc, while the optical disc is rotated;

a feeding mechanism disposed on the base for feeding the optical pickup along the guide means; and

at least four supporting means each with an associated elastic member for elastically supporting the base, the supporting means and the associated elastic members being disposed

symmetrically on the base with respect to a center line of the base along the direction of the movement of the optical pickup,

wherein the disc rotation driving means, the optical pickup, and the feeding mechanism are located on the base such that a center of gravity of the base lies along the center line.